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DAWN

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Ties with Kabul hinge on anti-terror assurances: FO

• Spokesperson says verbal statements or expressions of intent ‘insufficient’ • Insists Islamabad views situation in Iran as ‘internal matter’, rejects any external pressure

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday underscored that progress in ties with Afghanistan hinged on credible counterterrorism assurances from Kabul, particularly a commitment that its soil would not be used for attacks against Pakistan, while noting Islamabad’s desire to remain positively engaged despite deep strains in bilateral relations.

Addressing a weekly news briefing, FO spokesperson Tahir Andrabi stressed that Pakistan was not seeking confrontation with Afghanistan but could not compromise on its core security demand.

“Pakistan does not wish to be hostile to Afghanistan. Our demand to Afghanistan is very simple; it is not something that is against the basic responsibility of any nation. The terrorist elements and its own individual Afghan nationals should not be part of the terrorism in other countries,” he said, adding that Pakistan would maintain this position “unless we get concrete, verifiable, written assurances from the Afghan side that their soil will not be used”.

Mr Andrabi emphasised that verbal statements or expressions of intent regarding counterterrorism cooperation were insufficient and said Islamabad required formal, enforceable commitments.

“There is a need [for] written, verifiable assurances and commitment to stop these acts [of terrorism].”

He recalled the immense potential for bilateral cooperation but said it could only be realised once Pakistan received written commitments and assurances on counterterrorism from Afghanistan. He said Pakistan continued to hope for a constructive response from Kabul despite the absence of such guarantees so far.

“The Afghan side has still not given verifiable, written, concrete assurances. Des-

pite that, Pakistan wishes to engage positively We have no option but to remain engaged and be positive,” he added.

The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan remained open to engagement at multiple levels, including regional formats.

‘Iran’s internal matter’

The spokesperson said Pakistan firmly opposed any foreign interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, including Iran, in its first public comments since a fresh wave of protests erupted across the Islamic republic earlier this month.

He said Islamabad viewed the situation in Iran as an internal matter and rejected external pressure or aggression.

The spokesperson stressed that Pakistan did not wish to comment on Iran’s internal developments.

The spokesperson declined to confirm reports of talks with Saudi Arabia on the sale of JF-17 fighter jets, saying any such development would only be confirmed once a deal materialised.

Responding to questions about the reported negotiations, Mr Andrabi said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia maintained broad and ongoing defence cooperation but stopped short of acknowledging any specific discussions.

A *Reuters* report on Wednesday cited Pakistani sources as saying Islamabad and Riyadh were in talks to convert about \$2 billion in Saudi loans into a deal for JF-17 Thunder fighter jets.

Separately, the FO issued a joint statement in which Pakistan and a wide selection of Muslim countries condemned a visit by Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar to Somaliland earlier this week.

“The said visit constitutes a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and undermines established international norms and the United Nations Charter,” it read.

Bangladesh air chief meets CDF, other military leaders

Discussions focus on regional security, training exchanges; PAF chief holds talks with senior Saudi defence officials

Dawn Report

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh Air Force Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Hasan Mahmood Khan discussed avenues for enhancing defence cooperation with Pakistan in separate meetings with Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

ACM Khan called on CDF Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release on Thursday.

“During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics and avenues for enhancing bilateral defen-

ce and military cooperation were discussed,” the statement read.

“Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening professional collaboration, training exchanges and defence ties between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Bangladesh.”

According to the ISPR, ACM Khan lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and appreciated their contributions to regional peace and stability.

CDF Munir reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to fostering enduring defence relations with Bangladesh. The meeting reflected the longstanding and strong bonds between the two brotherly countries.

Separately, the Bangladesh air chief called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at the Naval Headquarters, the ISPR said.

“During the meeting, matters of mutual professional interest, the evolving regional security paradigm, and avenues for further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation were discussed,” it added.

Earlier, the Bangladesh

air chief met with his Pakistani counterpart, during which both air chiefs held detailed discussions on the potential procurement of JF-17 Thunder aircraft.

The military’s media wing said the ACM Khan’s visit underscored the deepening defence ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh, following the significant visit of Admiral Ashraf to Dhaka in November 2025.

Saudi defence officials

In a separate engagement, Pakistan Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu met senior Saudi defence officials during a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

According to an ISPR statement, the Saudi leadership lauded Pakistan’s constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability.

ACM Sidhu called on Royal Saudi Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Turki bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz and Saudi Armed Forces Chief of the General Staff General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al-Rowaili.



A TECHNICIAN carries out maintenance work on CCTV cameras along Srinagar Highway in the federal capital.—APP

Law enforcers to be trained at Beijing Police College

Agreement reached during Mohsin Naqvi’s visit to China

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: All assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) of the National Police Academy will undergo a one-month training programme at the Beijing Police College.

This was agreed in principle during Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi’s visit to the Beijing Police College. A formal agreement to this effect will be signed between the National Police Academy and the Beijing Police College.

According to a communication received here through the interior ministry’s media wing, cooperation between the National Police Academy and the Beijing Police College will be enhanced. Pakistani police officers will also be equipped with modern professional education.

During the visit, the minister inspected various high-tech training sections of the Beijing Police

College. He also witnessed an impressive demonstration by the police on how suspects are apprehended using vehicles. Mr Naqvi appreciated the professional skills and excellent training standards of the Beijing police.

He applauded the special vehicle squad for its outstanding performance. He said he was highly impressed by the professional capabilities and top class training of the vehicle squad. The interior minister also operated the advanced driving simulator machine.

The president of the Beijing Police College, Wu Wei, briefed Mr Naqvi on the high-tech training through simulators and other tools. The minister was also briefed on the use of modern technology to deal with protests and violent incidents.

The president of Beijing Police College also briefed the minister about technology-based education and practical training, informing him that the college provides academic education, professional training, and AI-based instruction. The institution comprises 12 faculties with more than 400 faculty members, 50 per cent of whom are

PhD holders.

Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, Director General of National Police Academy Muhammad Idrees, Director General of National Cyber Crimes Investigation Syed Khurram Ali, IG of Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi, and Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa were also present on the occasion.

The minister also visited the Beijing Public Security Passport Bureau, observed various sections of the Exit-Entry Administration Bureau and reviewed China’s passport making and immigration system.

Mr Naqvi was given a detailed briefing on immigration policies and complete stages of passport processing — from application to printing.

He was also briefed about foreign nationals arriving in China, their stay and departure procedures. He was also informed about the fast-track passport and immigration process provided through the “One Window” facility.

He was informed that once an online application is submitted, a passport is delivered to citizens within 24 hours.

Terror kingpin’s ‘orders’ vindicate Islamabad

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: In what is being interpreted as a tacit acknowledgement of Pakistan’s grouse with Kabul, the leader of a notorious terrorist outfit has reportedly urged his ‘commanders’ to avoid recruiting and deploying foreign fighters — most notably Afghans — to fight in Pakistan, warning of serious consequences if his instructions are violated.

The instruction was relayed by Hafiz Gul Bahadur, who heads the so-called Ittehadul Mujahideen Pakistan, in an audio message released to his cadres a few days ago, *The Khorasan Diary* reported.

This also seems to fly in the face of Kabul’s stance that the terrorist threat plaguing Pakistan is “an internal problem”.

The issue of Afghan soil and fighters being used to stage terrorist attacks in Pakistan has remained a critical bone of contention between Islamabad and Afghanistan, escalating into border skirmishes and leading to the eventual closure of the Pak-Afghan border in October last year.

In recent months, Pakistan’s civilian and military leadership has maintained that the terrorism plaguing the country originated from Afghanistan.

The instruction from Gul Bahadur comes in the backdrop of pressure from the Afghan Taliban on their Pakistani comrades — in the face of rising international pressure — and follows a decree by a council of religious scholars, pledging that Afghan soil would not be used against a foreign country.

Issued in Kabul early last month, the decree followed a similar statement by the Afghan Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, which had largely gone unheeded.

Law minister defends 27th Amendment as ‘historic step’

Establishment of FCC termed ‘cornerstone achievement’

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday defended the 27th Constitutional Amendment as a historic step that fortifies Pakistan’s federal structure, countering criticism that it undermines judicial independence.

Speaking at the book launching of Tea Talk, a compilation of columns by Advocate Talat Abbas Khan, here at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), the law minister emphasised that the amendment’s cornerstone achievement was establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC).

“This is a monumental contribution of the Parliament to strengthen the federation,” the minister said, adding that by ensuring equal provincial representation in the FCC, the government has addressed a longstanding national demand.

The minister’s remarks come in response to an Amnesty International report that described the

amendment as the “crescendo of a concerted and sustained attack on the independence of the judiciary, the right to a fair trial, and the rule of law in Pakistan”.

Mr Tarar urged critics to understand the amendment’s intent before dismissing it, noting that the FCC was originally envisioned in the 2006 Charter of Democracy, a document endorsed and signed by all major political parties, including the founder of the PTI, PPP, PML-N, and JUI-F’s Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

He said the demand for such a court gained momentum amid widespread concern over the Supreme Court’s expansive use of suo motu powers under the now-defunct Article 184(3). “When such judicial actions led to the disqualification of lawmakers and even elected prime ministers, the call for a dedicated constitutional court grew louder,” the minister said, adding that the power to choose representatives rests solely with the people, not the judiciary, which must not engage in political engineering.

The idea behind setting up of the FCC was to strengthen the federa-

tion by giving equal representation to all federating units of the country and since federal capital was also part of the federation, therefore, it should also be given a representation in the FCC.

The minister outlined the structural imbalance the FCC seeks to correct. Previously, the Supreme Court’s composition was linked to the size of provincial high courts, leading to a predominance of judges from Punjab, which has the largest high court. Smaller provinces like Balochistan had minimal representation.

Since the Lahore High Court has the biggest number of judges to the tune of 60, therefore, the Supreme Court always enjoyed the majority of judges from the Punjab, he explained. Likewise, he said, the number of judges in the Balochistan High Court was less and, therefore, the number of judges from that province was also less, adding that the same was the case with Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

The FCC creates a new forum to address grievances of deprivation and rift among smaller provinces, Mr Tarar said.—Nasir Iqbal

Pakistanis among top charity donors, but 42pc unable to give

• Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy says country ranks 17th out of 101 nations in terms of generosity • 27pc non-givers cite lack of affordability as main reason

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Religious motivation for charity puts Pakistanis among the top donors in the world, but 42 per cent of people express their inability to donate due to financial constraints.

This has been reported by the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP), a non-governmental organisation, based on The World Giving Report (WGR) 2025 and its own surveys and evaluation of over 5,000 not-for-profit organisations in the country.

The PCP says about two-thirds (73pc) of Pakistanis donated money in 2024 for various social causes.

“This is above the global average of 64pc and the continental average of 69pc. This is reflective of the generous impulse of charitable giving for causes people care for,” the PCP says in its ‘Giving in Pakistan 2025’ report.

Interestingly, Nigeria scores the highest at 89pc, while Japan ranks the lowest with

16pc.

As such, Pakistan ranks 17th out of 101 countries for how generous its people are and also places 17th in terms of the proportion of income donated.

In terms of percentage of income donated at 1.64pc, Pakistan ranks above the global average of 1.04pc despite having an income distribution highly skewed towards the middle- and low-income brackets.

In contrast, volunteering is not a common practice in Pakistan, as only 16pc of people report having volunteered time in 2024.

This reflects into just 3.5 hours volunteered on average per person, nearly half of the continental average of 7.5 hours and far lower than 8.9 hours of the global average.

The report finds that lack of affordability is the predominant cause of non-giving in all parts of the world, including Pakistan.

Out of the 27pc non-givers, the major reason mentioned for not giving is lack of affordability in Pakistan, compared to 40pc average globally and 35pc in the Asia continent.

However, 18pc of non-monetary givers

prefer to give in-kind — in the form of food or other support.

A total of 42pc of people did not donate in 2024 due to lack of affordability.

Major motivations

The PCP notes religious motivation and compassion for a cause as the leading reasons for giving money. Among the people who donated, the top three reasons are religious obligation (58pc), care about a cause (54pc) and a sense of duty to give to charity (49pc).

The report says Pakistanis prefer to donate money directly to a person or family in need, accounting for the highest proportion at 51pc, followed by giving money to charities at 47pc and religious causes at 34pc.

These proportions are all higher than global and continental scores, and the “pattern of giving in Pakistan indicates that faith-based giving and deep compassion for helping a person or family in need runs through every neighbourhood and community”.

The survey also shows that Pakistanis give money frequently with nearly 18pc

donating more than 12 times during 2024 and 21pc giving between six and 11 times — both figures are higher than global and continental averages.

“This relatively higher frequency of giving could be attributed to the general trend of donating on religious and cultural occasions, such as [the] festivals of Ramadan, Eid and other religious events.”

Direct giving

Of all money given in 2024, 44.7pc goes directly to people in need, far more than to charities (33.8pc) and to religious reasons (21.5pc).

This shows that Pakistan’s giving profile leans heavily towards direct giving instead of formalised charity, hence a preference for informal giving to individuals.

Also, the generosity in Pakistan felt like a duty — hard-wired into the culture.

This behaviour could be closely associated with religious norms and obligations such as Zakat, Sadaqah and Fitrana

Around 89pc felt “happy” fulfilling this

duty, while nearly 70pc felt “very happy”.

The PCP argues that improved credibility and effectiveness of the charity sector could increase donations.

About 32pc of people show more willingness to donate if charities are well-regulated and almost a same proportion are ready to donate if they had more money.

Around 29pc appeared ready to increase their donations if they knew more about how and where their money was spent.

Poverty and religious organisations are the most popular causes in Pakistan, followed by homelessness and disability-related reasons.

Around 39pc of giving goes to the poor, 38pc to religious organisations, 30pc to the homeless and 28pc to people with disabilities.

Pakistanis also trusted their charity organisations more than the regional and global averages.

Overall, the public in Pakistan give a score of 10.4 out of 15 for how much they trust charities, compared to an Asian average of 9.65 and a global average of 9.22.